

**Headteacher: Mr Andy Kelly**

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18 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this term, I want to reflect on what an incredible few months it has been since September. Our students have shown outstanding commitment, resilience, and enthusiasm in all aspects of school life. From academic progress to sporting achievements, creative arts, and community engagement, they have truly embodied the values of Parkside. I am immensely proud of the way they have approached challenges and embraced opportunities to learn and grow.

### **Celebrating Success – Rewards Assemblies**

This week, we are holding Rewards Assemblies for all year groups to recognise and celebrate the fantastic effort and achievements of our students. Their resilience, commitment to learning, and positive attitude have been outstanding, and these assemblies are a great way to finish the term on a high note.

### **Parkside Choir – Bringing Joy to the Community**

Our Parkside Choir has been exceptional this Christmas season, spreading festive cheer across Chesterfield. They have performed at Belvedere House (nursing home), supported St Augustine's Food Bank, and delivered a full concert at the Crooked Spire. The feedback from the community has been incredible, and we are so proud of the way our students have represented Parkside with such talent and kindness. A massive thank you to Mrs Allsop (our fantastic music teacher!) for supporting our students and providing these opportunities to shine!

### **Community Christmas Dinner**

We are thrilled to be hosting our Community Christmas Dinner tomorrow. Thank you to everyone who is able to join us – we look forward to sharing a festive meal and celebrating together.

### **Mission Christmas – Supporting Our Students**

We are delighted to share that Parkside has partnered with **Mission Christmas**, a fantastic initiative that helps ensure every child has a gift to open on Christmas Day. Some of our students have been selected to receive free Christmas presents through this scheme. We are so grateful to the organisers and the wider community for making this possible – it truly reflects the spirit of giving and care that makes this time of year so special.

## **Year 11 – GCSE Mocks and Intervention**

Year 11 have shown tremendous effort during their recent GCSE mock exams, which conclude today. Their determination and focus have been impressive, and we are confident this hard work will pay off in the summer. To celebrate their achievements, there will be a reward event in the hall today.

Looking ahead, Year 11 students will return on Monday 5 January for intervention sessions from 8:45am – 11:00am. Attendance is essential, as these targeted sessions will have a significant impact on their GCSE grades in the selected subject areas.

## **Uniform Expectations**

As we start the new term, please ensure students return in full school uniform. Key reminders:

- Black shoes only (please purchase new shoes if required over the Christmas break)
- Natural nails and natural hair colour only

If students choose to have artificial nails or unnatural hair colour during the holidays, these must be removed by Tuesday 6 January, or they risk missing lessons in mainstream classes.

## **Parental Communications in 2026**

In early 2026, we will be moving away from text messages as a regular communication tool. Instead, all school communication will be via the Arbor Parent App and email. Please ensure you are signed up to Arbor and contact the school if your email address needs updating. I will share the transition dates in the New Year.

## **Stay Connected with Parkside**

Keep up to date with all the latest news, achievements, and celebrations by following us on social media – there's something to be proud of at Parkside every single day!

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter) by searching for *Parkside Community School Chesterfield*. It's the perfect way to stay informed and share in the successes of our amazing students and staff.

## **Dates for diary**

- Community Christmas Dinner - 19 December, 11.00am arrival
- Last day of term – 19 December – students dismissed at 12.30pm
- INSET day (Year 11 intervention 8:45am – 11:00am) – 5 January 2026
- All students return to school at 8.25am – 6 January 2026

Finally, I wish you and your families a joyful Christmas and a happy New Year. This is a special time to pause, reflect, and celebrate everything we have achieved together since September. Our students have been truly outstanding – showing resilience, ambition, and kindness every single day.

Thank you for your continued support in making Parkside Community School a place where every student can thrive, feel valued, and reach their potential. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in January for another exciting term full of opportunities and success.

Enjoy the festive break, stay safe, and we'll see you in the New Year!

Yours faithfully  
Mr Andy Kelly  
Headteacher